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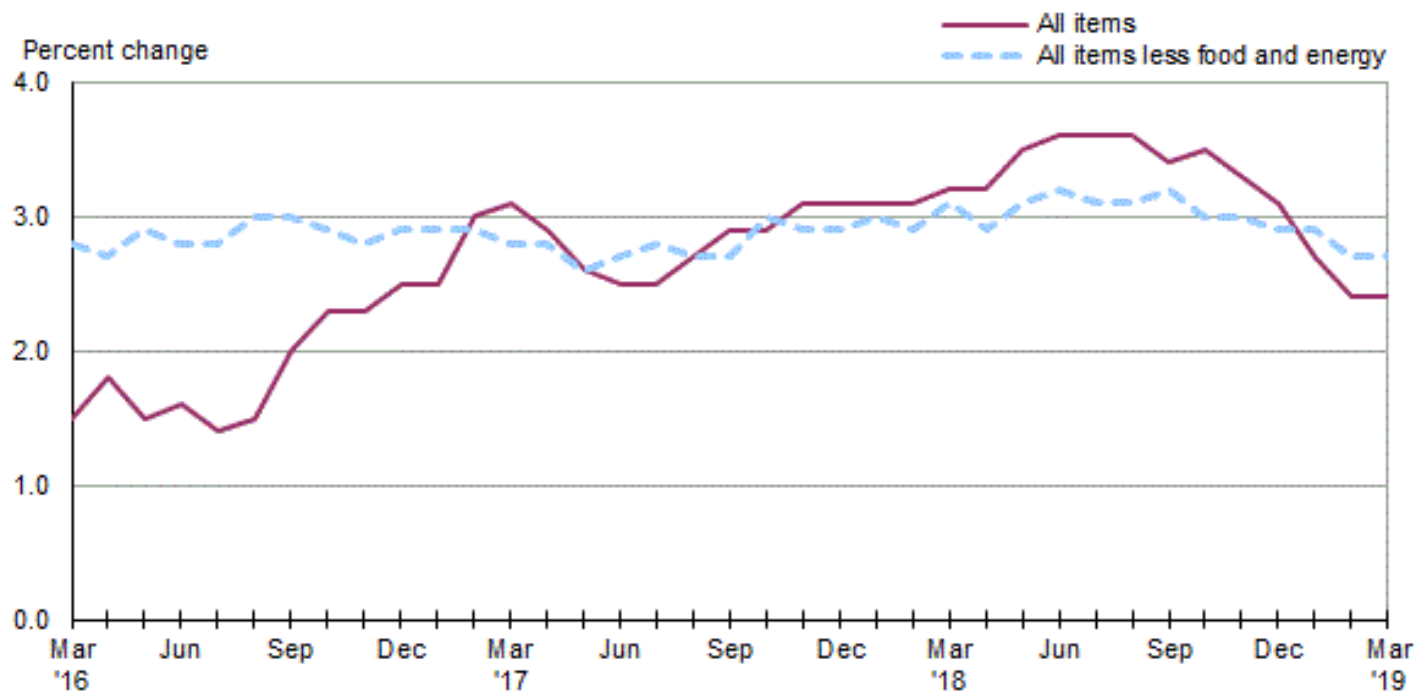
### Consumer Price Index, West Region — March 2019

**Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 2.4 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The March increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) . Energy prices declined 0.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, March 2016–March 2019**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

#### Food

Food prices increased 0.2 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent, and prices for food at home inched up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.4 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 1.6 percent.

### Energy

The energy index increased 2.5 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.9 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 0.7 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 0.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-1.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 2.0 percent, while prices for electricity were virtually unchanged during the past year.

### All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in March. Higher prices for apparel (1.1 percent) and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by a lower price for education and communication (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (2.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-2.2 percent).

**Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.7
February.....	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2	0.4	2.4
April.....	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2		
May.....	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5		
June.....	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6		
July.....	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6		
August.....	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6		
September.....	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4		
October.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5		
November.....	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1	-0.2	3.3		
December.....	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1	-0.2	3.1		

**The April 2019 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on May 10, 2019.**

### Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	265.624	266.215	267.370	2.4	0.7	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	429.366	430.322	432.189			
Food and beverages .....	263.345	264.248	264.728	2.4	0.5	0.2
Food .....	263.047	263.967	264.503	2.4	0.6	0.2
Food at home .....	249.310	250.208	250.581	1.6	0.5	0.1
Cereals and bakery products .....	262.666	263.999	266.782	3.2	1.6	1.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.439	257.040	257.109	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Dairy and related products .....	228.486	228.867	230.775	1.5	1.0	0.8
Fruits and vegetables .....	334.573	334.891	334.352	2.8	-0.1	-0.2
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	175.277	175.763	174.032	2.5	-0.7	-1.0
Other food at home .....	211.549	213.704	214.244	0.9	1.3	0.3
Food away from home.....	280.922	281.872	282.618	3.4	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	263.861	264.525	264.272	2.7	0.2	-0.1
Housing .....	292.683	293.930	295.049	3.9	0.8	0.4
Shelter .....	337.955	339.427	340.834	4.3	0.9	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	358.907	359.909	361.809	5.0	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	355.581	356.837	358.207	4.4	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	355.586	356.844	358.215	4.4	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	299.677	299.218	300.659	1.8	0.3	0.5
Household energy .....	252.252	250.987	252.622	0.4	0.1	0.7
Energy services(1) .....	253.980	252.537	254.042	0.3	0.0	0.6
Electricity(1).....	284.146	282.977	284.879	-0.1	0.3	0.7
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	197.947	195.624	196.211	2.0	-0.9	0.3
Household furnishings and operations .....	132.196	133.324	133.339	2.5	0.9	0.0
Apparel .....	114.914	116.537	117.775	-2.2	2.5	1.1
Transportation .....	212.839	212.308	214.635	0.6	0.8	1.1
Private transportation .....	208.593	207.509	210.032	0.9	0.7	1.2
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.415	100.349	100.725	0.0	0.3	0.4
New vehicles .....	148.085	148.132	148.368	0.9	0.2	0.2
New cars and trucks(3)(4) .....	102.848	102.877	103.032	0.9	0.2	0.2
New cars(4) .....	145.533	145.594	145.667	1.5	0.1	0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	133.580	134.124	135.391	0.6	1.4	0.9
Motor fuel .....	239.968	234.893	243.824	-1.2	1.6	3.8
Gasoline (all types).....	238.517	233.532	242.567	-1.3	1.7	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	235.515	230.505	239.611	-1.3	1.7	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	230.099	224.213	231.986	-1.1	0.8	3.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	235.203	230.957	239.031	-1.0	1.6	3.5
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	854.341	854.341	852.069	3.4	-0.3	-0.3
Medical Care .....	502.208	502.117	503.464	2.5	0.3	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	384.030	382.849	383.737	1.4	-0.1	0.2
Medical care services.....	539.474	539.756	541.250	2.8	0.3	0.3
Professional services .....	356.295	356.672	356.551	-0.3	0.1	0.0
Recreation(3).....	115.443	114.556	114.948	0.6	-0.4	0.3
Education and communication(3).....	136.832	137.144	136.896	0.9	0.0	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) .....	1,460.073	1,460.060	1,459.781	5.7	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services .....	441.881	443.306	444.421	2.5	0.6	0.3
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	265.624	266.215	267.370	2.4	0.7	0.4
Commodities .....	183.890	184.186	185.324	0.9	0.8	0.6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Commodities less food & beverages.....	144.858	144.913	146.239	-0.2	1.0	0.9
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	187.921	187.345	190.253	-0.5	1.2	1.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	239.022	236.860	240.949	0.1	0.8	1.7
Durables .....	105.906	106.438	106.504	0.3	0.6	0.1
Services .....	341.620	342.496	343.635	3.3	0.6	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	359.855	361.431	362.957	4.3	0.9	0.4
Transportation services .....	318.519	320.168	320.549	1.5	0.6	0.1
Other services .....	356.032	355.631	356.293	2.3	0.1	0.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care .....	254.814	255.433	256.577	2.4	0.7	0.4
All items less food .....	266.202	266.743	267.996	2.4	0.7	0.5
All items less shelter.....	237.279	237.518	238.575	1.4	0.5	0.4
Commodities less food .....	149.192	149.264	150.558	0.0	0.9	0.9
Nondurables .....	225.549	225.652	227.473	1.1	0.9	0.8
Nondurables less food.....	193.433	192.926	195.668	-0.3	1.2	1.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	241.088	239.195	242.869	0.4	0.7	1.5
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	356.645	356.735	357.512	2.1	0.2	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	327.790	328.703	329.816	3.4	0.6	0.3
Energy .....	248.473	244.834	251.002	-0.6	1.0	2.5
All items less energy .....	269.081	269.986	270.786	2.7	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	270.930	271.834	272.681	2.7	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	139.403	140.075	140.463	0.2	0.8	0.3
Energy commodities.....	244.677	239.672	248.744	-1.1	1.7	3.8
Services less energy services.....	348.004	349.012	350.136	3.5	0.6	0.3

**Footnotes**

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.